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Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent



MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment System
July 2010

2010 – 2011 Testing Windows

October 18 - November 19, 2010	English Language Proficiency Test, Grades K-12
January 20 - 21, 2011	OPI Assessment Conference, Billings
January 25 - February 28, 2011	NAEP, Grades 4 and 8, Reading and Math
February 9 - March 24, 2011	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.
March 1 - March 24, 2011	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.



***MontCAS Presents*, a series of online opportunities for professional development, is featuring an online formative assessment class for educators plus an opportunity to pilot an online writing formative assessment program for students and teachers.**

Please turn the page for important details.



Back by popular demand—New/Improved **FAME (Formative Assessment for Montana Educators)**

Registration is now open

- Online class --starts week of September 13, 2010
- Pre-recorded presentations and live professional learning communities—all online at your convenience from your computer.
- Text and materials provided by OPI
- Presentations created and conducted by Dr. Margaret Heritage, UCLA
- Graduate credits or renewal units available

Registration, information and the schedule and syllabus are online

http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_3

- Register now and get a head start on the reading and the presentations.



Opportunity to Participate in Phase 2 Pilot of Online Writing Formative Assessment Program

The Office of Public Instruction has done an extensive search for online writing assessment products and services for formative assessment. During the 2009-2010 school year, OPI contracted with four online writing program contractors to provide services to a group of Montana schools as Phase 1 of a pilot test.

- The Phase 1 educators assembled a list of positive attributes and determined that use of one of the products be continued in the second phase of the research.
- The purpose of Phase 2 of this pilot is to gain further experience with the recommended product to inform future decisions on what functions and features of online writing assessment products and services are most beneficial to Montana educators.
- Online programs provide immediate feedback to both students and teachers, offer professional development in formative assessment for writing, and record and report student and group data for use by students and teachers. The programs are meant to enhance the writing process and serve as a collaborative tool for teachers and students.

Teachers and student participants in phase 1 were enthusiastic about online writing programs for formative assessment. See more information about their comments along with the application at the following link:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_3

We look forward to your participation. Please call us with questions. Thank you.

OPI Assessment Staff

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